

Message Text

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62

ACTION NEA-13

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7848

INFO USINT ALGIERS

USINT CAIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 01814

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: CASC YS UK

SUBJECT: PDRY DETENTION OF AMCITS FRANKLIN AND TORHAN

REF: STATE 16374

1. FCO HAS HAD REPLY FROM ADEN. PETITION ON BEHALF OF FRANKLIN REACHED PRESIDENT SOMETIME AGO. REGARDING CONGRESSMAN FINDLEY'S PROPOSED VISIT, PDRY FOREIGN MINISTER HAS TOLD BRITISH VISIT WOULD BE ALL RIGHT AND PROMISED THAT FINDLEY WOULD BE ABLE TO HAVE AN INTERVIEW WITH A GOVERNMENT PERSONALITY OF IMPORTANCE.

2. ADEN COMMENTED THAT ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE MINISTRY TO WHOM BRITISH SPOKE SEEMED TO WELCOME THE PROSPECT OF CONGRESSMAN FINDLEY'S VISIT, AN ATTITUDE WHICH BRITISH EMBASSY INTERPRETS AS POSSIBLE SIGN THAT PDRY WOULD LIKE TO ACCEDE TO PLEA FOR CLEMENCY.

3. PDRY MAY OF COURSE HAVE IN MIND SOME QUID PRO QUO FOR FRANKLIN'S RELEASE AND MAY USE CONGRESSMAN'S VISIT FOR OWN PROPAGANDA. BRITISH SAY IT WILL BE UP TO USG TO ASSESS THESE DISADVANTAGES MORE COMPLETELY, BUT ADEN
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BELIEVES VISIT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE AND ON BALANCE

PROBABLY WORTH THE RISK.

4. ADEN THINKS FINDLEY SHOULD CERTAINLY RAISE THE CASE OF TORHAN. PDRY AUTHORITIES WOULD MISUNDERSTAND IF HE DID NOT. BRITISH EMBASSY TOOK OPPORTUNITY OF VISIT TO FOREIGN MINISTER TO ASK ONCE AGAIN FOR CONSULAR ACCESS TO TORHAN, SUGGESTING IT WOULD BE GOOD IF THIS COULD HAPPEN PRIOR TO ARRIVAL OF FINDLEY. FOREIGN MINISTER UNDERTOOK TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE "WITH THE AUTHORITIES CONCERNED".

5. COMMENT: THIS INFORMATION WOULD APPEAR TO SUSTAIN THESIS THAT FINDLEY VISIT MAY WIN RELEASE OF FRANKLIN AND POSSIBLY BETTER TREATMENT FOR TORHAN. PROPAGANDA ASPECTS OF CONGRESSIONAL VISITOR WILL OF COURSE HAVE TO BE ASSESSED BY DEPT IN LIGHT CURRENT POLICY TOWARD PDRY.

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